

Hamsplatter

January 2000

Volume 29 Issue 1

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President's Corner



Welcome to Ham Radio's second century! Now that the dreaded Y2K event has come and fizzled, it is pretty obvious that the purveyors of doom and gloom were wrong again. Of course, Y2K was not the only big story this year, as there are numerous other worries that our great hobby is faced with.

Here locally, the specters of a possible 35 foot tower height restriction looms over Allen county hams. But, like Y2K, we have been forewarned, and the time is ripe for us to work together and make sure that we can live with the results. Already a group of your fellow hams from ACARTS and FWRC are working on the approach to this delicate issue.

The other great bombshell of 1999, is none other than the FCC's restructuring of the amateur radio service. Surely the hottest ham radio topic to come along since incentive licensing, many of our own ranks are (once again) predicting the demise of amateur radio. Personally, I do not hold such a view. If the technical content of the exam is beefed up as promised, there will be no "dumbing down" of amateur radio, in fact this is a golden opportunity to make the exams more relevant to today's technologies. By streamlining the administration of the amateur radio service, the FCC will be able to put more energy into cleaning the bands of the lids that make operating less than enjoyable. Lastly, the restructuring will probably create a whirlwind of license upgrading. This is a great opportunity for all of us that want to improve our standing in the

What's Inside

December Meeting Photos	pg. 2
Fort Wayne Radio Club January Auction	pg. 3
Long-distance rescue via Morse code	pg. 3
Special Bulletin on Amateur Restructuring	pg. 4
Questions, Comments, Confusion Follow In Fcc's Wake	pg. 5
ARRL VE Exam Schedule	pg. 6
Auction Form	pg. 7
For Sale	pg. 8
Newsletter Format To Change	pg. 8
80th Anniversary T-shirts	pg. 8

hobby. By June, the area's VEC teams are really going to need a vacation!

The most important aspect of the restructuring, however, is that we are at an important crossroads for our hobby. The effort and enthusiasm that WE put forth is what is really going to make the difference on the quality of the amateur radio service in the years to come. Let's resolve to make these changes a resoundingly positive attitude as we begin the second century of ham radio.

Instead of a gloomy Y2K picture, the 80th year for the Fort Wayne Radio Club looks very promising. We have a board made up of experienced hams and eager newcomers. Events will make this a good year also, starting with our traditional auction this January. I'll see you there and talk to you on the bands.

73, Steve

**Next Club Meeting - Friday,
Jan. 21, 2000, 6:30 PM
Good Shepherd United
Methodist Church, corner
of Vance Ave. & Reed Rd.**

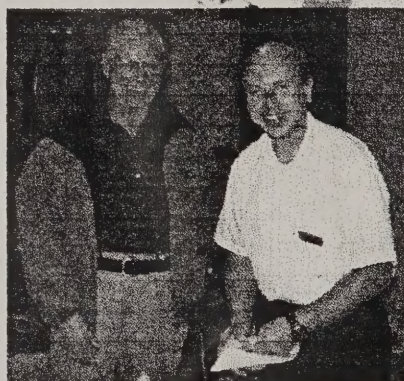
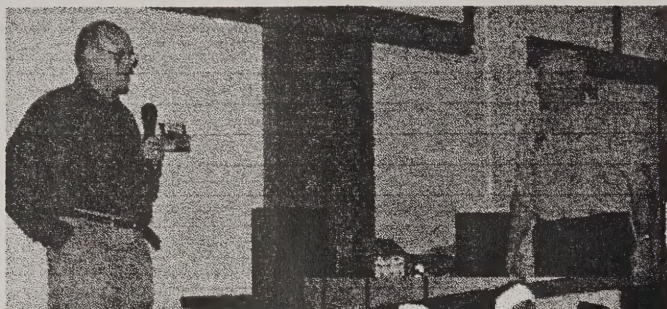
**Program:
Club Auction**

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to give me a call. My home phone is 483-4039; my home office number is: 483-2214. Fax: 483-3706.

STEVE NARDIN WB9ZIY

December Meeting

There was no business meeting so there are no minutes but we do have a few memories to share. Photos by Al Burke and Vic Guess.





Fort Wayne Radio Club January Auction

The rules are simple:

1) Come prepared to sell or buy.

Sellers must mark each item (or item group) to be auctioned with identification, and separate them into auction groups. It is suggested that one auction group should be one large value item, or several low value items. Each group to be auctioned must be identified. The auction will move more smoothly if you group your items before you bring them to the auction. If there is a minimum price you will accept, that should be clearly marked on the item. We have been printing an auction form in the HAMSPLATTER to help you organize your auction items into groups. Buyers should have adequate funds available (no credit extended). Please do not sell items privately during the auction, since this is a club fund raising activity.

All items must be removed from the meeting room at the end of the auction.

2) Sign out an auction ID number card if you are buying or selling.

Sellers are encouraged to mark their items with their auction ID number and a group number. For example, if your auction ID number is #23, please mark your items as #23-A, #23-B, #23-C, or some similar identification. You do not need an auction ID number if you are just watching the fun. Please return your ID number card when you leave the auction, since they can be used next year. In case you have a lucky number, you may sign out any ID number that is still available from the ID card stack when you sign in. The club has ID #1.

3) Keep track of your activities.

Sellers are advised to keep track of the buyers auction ID and amount of bid accepted for each item auctioned. Buyers are advised to keep track of their purchases (seller ID & Item group ID) and the amount of money they have spent. The auction sheets printed in the HAMSPLATTER can be used to help you keep track of your sales and purchases.

The treasurer will keep records of the auction activities, and all accounts must be settled with the club treasurer the night of the auction. The treasurer always welcomes assistance in keeping track of the auction activities!

4) Check out with the treasurer when you leave the auction or remove equipment.

Buyers must pay in full the night of the auction. Sellers will be paid by the treasurer following the auction of their items, less a 10% fee that goes to the club. Buyers may leave at any time after paying for their purchases and removing them. Sellers may leave at any time, but any unsold items must be removed.

5) Do not leave anything behind in the meeting room after the auction.

Please make sure that the buyers pick up the items they bought. Sellers must remove items that did not sell at the auction.

6) Spend money. Have fun. Pay your dues for the year 2000.

Bob W8ST, Treasurer

Note: Auction form is on page 7.

Long-distance rescue via Morse code

from *The ARRL Letter* – Gene Nailon, K5DLE, reports a ham in the Rockies has a fellow amateur in Oklahoma and the Morse code to thank for helping after he fell ill during a QSO December 17. Larry Watson, W5EIU, in Oklahoma City answered a CQ on 3710 kHz from the Wyoming ham. They had been talking for about 15 minutes when the Wyoming op told Watson: "I think I'm having a heart attack, and I can't get to the phone." After that, his transmission broke off, and Watson was unable to raise him further. About the same time, Jim Caldwell, WJ0C, of Waterloo, Iowa, broke in. WJ0C was able to look up the full name and location of the Wyoming ham and relay the information to Watson, who called the police in the Wyoming town to alert them to a potential medical emergency. It turned out they were right. The Wyoming ham—whose name and location were unavailable—was hospitalized, and the prognosis was said to be good. Watson, first licensed at age 13 in 1954, says this was a first for him. (By the way, both Watson and Nailon belong to Central Oklahoma Chapter 63 QCWA.)—Gene Nailon, K5DLE

Special Bulletin on Amateur Restructuring

Amateur Restructuring is Here: Three License Classes, One Code Speed

Three License Classes. One Code Speed

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 30, 1999—Amateur Radio will get a new look in the new millennium. The FCC today issued its long-awaited Report and Order in the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97—more commonly known as “license restructuring.” The bottom line is that starting April 15, 2000, there will

be three license classes—Technician, General, and Amateur Extra—and a single Morse code requirement—5 WPM.

“We believe that an individual’s ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual’s ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art,” the FCC said.

Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would “eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts.”

Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date of the Report and Order, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges. The ARRL had proposed a one-time across-the-board upgrading of current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General class, but the FCC declined to adopt the idea. This means that current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes and subbands, and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely.

... individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class ...

Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605.

The FCC’s decision not to automatically upgrade Novice and Tech Plus licensees means the current Novice/Tech Plus HF subbands will remain and not be “refarmed” to higher class licensees as the ARRL had proposed. The FCC said it did not refarm these

subbands because there was “no consensus” within the amateur community as to what to do with them.

As it had proposed earlier, the FCC decided to lump Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single licensee database, all designated as “Technician” licensees. Those who can document having passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination will continue to have the current Tech Plus HF privileges. “If documentation is needed to verify whether a licensee has passed a telegraphy examination, we may request the documentation from that licensee or the VECs,” the FCC said.

In addition to reducing the number of license classes from six to three and eliminating the 20 and 13 WPM code tests, the FCC also will reduce the number of written examination elements from five to three, authorize Advanced Class hams to prepare and administer General class examinations, and eliminate Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses. RACES will remain, however. “After review of the record, we conclude that we should eliminate RACES station licenses because RACES station licenses are unnecessary for amateur stations and amateur service licenses to provide emergency communications,” the FCC said.

Under the new licensing scheme, there will be four examination elements. Element 1 will be the 5 WPM Morse code exam. Element 2 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a Technician license; Element 3 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a General license, and Element 4 will be a 50-question written test for the Amateur Extra license. The FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The FCC’s new licensing plan means someone will be able to become a ham by passing a single 35-question written examination. The plan also simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra—especially since amateurs will only have to pass one Morse code test.

Elimination of the 13 and 20 WPM Morse requirements also means an end to physician certification waivers for applicants claiming an inability to pass the Morse code examination due to physical handicap.

The effective date provides a window of upgrade opportunity for current Advanced licensees. Between now and April 15, current Advanced holders may take the existing

Continued on page 5

Restructuring – Continued from page 4

Element 4B, a 40-question test, giving them credit for having passed the current Extra written examination. Likewise, holders of a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Elements 3B or 4B dated on or after April 17, 1999, will be able to qualify for General or Amateur Extra respectively when the new rules go into effect on April 15, 2000.

The FCC disagreed with the League's suggestion that it undertake a restructuring of operating privileges along with licensing restructuring. "We believe that in light of ongoing discussions concerning implementation of new and more modern communications technologies within the amateur service community, we should accord the amateur service community an opportunity to complete such discussions and possibly reach a consensus regarding implementation of new technologies before we undertake a comprehensive restructuring of the amateur service operating privileges and frequencies," the FCC said in its Report and Order.

In its amendments to Part 97, the FCC's Report and Order refers to a "Club Station Call Sign Administrator," something that does not exist under the current rules and which was not explained in the R&O itself. An FCC spokesperson said the Commission plans to issue a Public Notice soon to explain the program and to solicit qualified entities to serve as call sign administrators for club station applications.

A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available at <http://www.arrrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf> or at http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt.

Rick Lindquist, N1RL Senior News Editor ARRL HQ 860-594-0222 n1rl@arrrl.org Hear Amateur Radio News! 860-594-0384 or on the Web at <http://www.arrrl.org/arrrlletter/audio/>

Questions, Comments, Confusion Follow In Fcc's Wake

from *The ARRL Letter* – Questions, comments, and some confusion have been the order of the day since the FCC finally dropped the other shoe on Amateur Radio restructuring on December 30. The FCC's momentous action—reducing the number of license classes to three and establishing 5 WPM as the sole Morse code examination element—has, at least for now, polarized the Amateur Radio community. It also promises to change the complexion of Amateur Radio as it enters the new millennium.

More than half of those responding to an informal poll on the ARRL Web site indicate they plan to upgrade during 2000. Demand for study materials in the past week suggests many amateurs will be hitting the books in the coming weeks.

After April 15, 2000, the FCC will only issue Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses. Novice and Advanced licensees will retain current operating privileges and may renew indefinitely. The FCC's new licensing scheme simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra. Applicants will only have to pass one Morse code test, and there are fewer written examinations and total questions.

... the FCC will only issue Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses.

"This is the best news I have heard since bread and butter!" exclaimed Jimmy Stewart, WD9FHY, who said he's been trying unsuccessfully for years to boost his code proficiency. On the other side were some who asserted that the revised requirements would contribute to a further decline of Amateur Radio and open the doors to "riff-raff."

The ARRL Board of Directors is expected to review the FCC Report and Order and discuss its implications when it meets January 21-22 in Memphis.

In a significant step, the FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The nation's Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, including the ARRL-VEC, now are under the gun to meet the plan's April 15 implementation date. "The Question Pool Committee has been meeting by telephone and e-mail to get the updating process under way," said ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "It's anticipated that the QPC will put out a news release soon that indicates when the updated question pools will be available to the public." Jahnke said the revised question pools will be out "well in advance" of April 15.

No one loses any privileges under the FCC's new plan, and, with one limited exception, no licensee is in a position to automatically gain any privileges when April 15 rolls around. The FCC's action establishes the Technician license—with or without Morse code credit—as the entry-level ticket to Amateur Radio. Technician applicants passing the 5 WPM Morse code exam will gain current Tech Plus HF privileges. The current "no-code" Tech license will continue to be available. Technician applicants opting to not take the code test will gain current Technician VHF/UHF privileges. After April 15, 2000, the FCC will lump Technician and Technician Plus licensees into a single "Technician" database. Despite the name change, current Tech Plus licensees won't lose any privileges.

Similarly, current General and Amateur Extra class holders

Continued on page 6

ARRL VE Exam Schedule



29-Jan-2000
 Sponsor: ANDERSON RC
 & MADISON CNTY ARC
 Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins
 allowed)
 Contact: EVERETT G
 RILEY
 (765)754-7167
 VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: MADISON COUNTY
 EMERGENCY
 MANAGEMENT AGENCY HEAD-
 QUARTERS
 727 W 600 N
 OLD SCHOOL BLDG
 ANDERSON/ALEXANDRIA, IN
 46001

29-Jan-2000
 Sponsor: W5YI-VEC — WHITLEY
 COUNTY ARC
 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: HENRY R MACKAY
 (219)244-7735
 VEC: W5YI VEC
 Location:
 CALL FOR SITE LOCATION
 COLUMBIA CITY, IN 46725

12-Feb-2000
 Sponsor: PORTER COUNTY ARC
 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: WILLIAM PETERSON
 (219)762-2887
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 1401 W PORTER AVE
 CHESTERTON, IN 46304

26-Feb-2000
 Sponsor: W5YI
 Time: (No walk-ins)
 Contact: G CURTIS VAN DE WATER
 (219)858-2474
 VEC: W5YI VEC
 Location: CAN ALSO CALL 219-267-
 5400 FOR
 TEST LOCATION & TIME
 WARSAW, IN 46580

The FCC said it believes a demonstration of Morse proficiency does not necessarily indicate an individual's "ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art."

Questions... Continued from page 5

will continue to enjoy their current privileges. The FCC took no action to reallocate any amateur bands.

The new licensing regime has four examination elements: Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code test; Element 2, a 35-question Technician test; Element 3, a 35-question General test, and Element 4, a 50-question Amateur Extra test. The new Amateur Extra test is expected to combine the important elements of the current Advanced and Amateur Extra examinations. Only minor changes are anticipated in the new General class examination. The new Technician exam likely will include some questions on HF operating from the current Novice test.

The new licensing plan created a lone and limited upgrade for those who held a Technician license or a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) before March 21, 1987. Those individuals may claim credit for a new General class license. This is because there was a single Technician-General written test under the old system; only the code tests differed. The upgrade is not automatic, however. Affected individuals will have to apply through a Volunteer Examiner test session, complete Form 605, attach documentary proof of having completed the requirements for a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987, and pay an application fee, if any, to the VEC.

Judging from the questions coming into ARRL HQ, many hams want to know whether to upgrade now or wait for the new system. If you're either a Tech Plus or an Advanced licensee, there might be an advantage to taking an exam now. The FCC has told the League that current Tech Plus licensees holding a valid CSCE for Element 3B may apply for a General class upgrade when the new rules become effective. Likewise, current Advanced licensees holding a valid CSCE for Element 4B may apply for an Amateur Extra class upgrade under the new system. To be valid on April 15, 2000, any such CSCE will have to be dated on or after April 17, 1999. A CSCE is only good for 365 days. CSCE holders must attend a Volunteer Examiner session, complete Form 605, attach a valid CSCE, and pay any required application fee (\$6.65 for the ARRL-VEC).

The reduced Morse code requirement hit a nerve with some hams who felt it "devalued" their upper-class licenses. Others, however, felt it minimized an unnecessary obstacle. The FCC said it believes a demonstration of Morse proficiency does not necessarily indicate an individual's "ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," as the FCC put it. The Commission also said it was not convinced that Morse proficiency had any particular value to emergency preparedness.

The reduction in the Morse code requirement was not entirely unexpected. Several other countries already have lowered their Morse code examination requirements, and some observers believe the Morse requirement will disappear altogether once it's eliminated in the international Radio Regulations. The FCC said it opted for the "least burdensome requirement" as its sole Morse standard. While the 13 and 20 WPM code tests soon will be history, the FCC said that "provisions must remain in place for accommodating individuals with severe disabilities."

The Morse code issue is expected to be on the agenda of a future World Radiocommunication Conference. The FCC said it would not automatically "sunset" the Morse code requirement even if Morse code is eliminated from the international radio regulations.

Frequently Asked Questions on restructuring are available at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/faq.html>. A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf> or at http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt.

Auction Procedure:

- | Buyer # | (Buy Price) | Item Description | Seller # | (Sell Price) |
|---------|-------------|------------------|----------|--------------|
| 1 | 100 | 100 | 1 | 100 |
| 2 | 100 | 100 | 2 | 100 |
| 3 | 100 | 100 | 3 | 100 |
| 4 | 100 | 100 | 4 | 100 |
| 5 | 100 | 100 | 5 | 100 |
| 6 | 100 | 100 | 6 | 100 |
| 7 | 100 | 100 | 7 | 100 |
| 8 | 100 | 100 | 8 | 100 |
| 9 | 100 | 100 | 9 | 100 |
| 10 | 100 | 100 | 10 | 100 |
| 11 | 100 | 100 | 11 | 100 |
| 12 | 100 | 100 | 12 | 100 |
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| 14 | 100 | 100 | 14 | 100 |
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| 26 | 100 | 100 | 26 | 100 |
| 27 | 100 | 100 | 27 | 100 |
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| 29 | 100 | 100 | 29 | 100 |
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| 71 | 100 | 100 | 71 | 100 |
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| 73 | 100 | 100 | 73 | 100 |
| 74 | 100 | 100 | 74 | 100 |
| 75 | 100 | 100 | 75 | 100 |
| 76 | 100 | 100 | 76 | 100 |
| 77 | 100 | 100 | 77 | 100 |
| 78 | 100 | 100 | 78 | 100 |
| 79 | 100 | 100 | 79 | 100 |
| 80 | 100 | 100 | 80 | 100 |
| 81 | 100 | 100 | 81 | 100 |

[illegible]

	Total	_____
	Less 10%	_____
Amount due FWRC	Due from FWRC	_____



For Sale

- Two (2) REMOTE CONTROLS for Craftsman Garage Door Openers - Programmable \$20 EA.

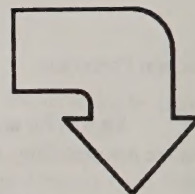
- Two (2) New Unopened Slim QUALCOMM Lithium Ion BATTERIES for QUALCOMM Cellular Phones QCP820/QCP2700/QCP1920. \$36 EA. (These sell for \$89 in F.W. Cell Phone Stores.)

N9FM Bob Waugh 219-484-7499

NOTE: For Sale & Wanted items will be listed for 2 months only unless the ad is resubmitted. If you sell an item the first month, please contact the editor so the item can be removed. Thank you.



Newsletter Format To Change



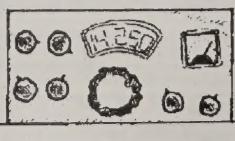
Starting early this year (hopefully for the February issue) the Fort Wayne Radio Club *Hamsplatter* will be merged with the ACARTS *State of the Arts*. This is being done in order to save manpower and money. ACARTS is lacking a newsletter editor this year so this will solve that problem for them. Fort Wayne Radio club will be able to take advantage of reduced printing and mailing costs since ACARTS has a bulk mail permit.

The combined publication will have sections for both clubs, as well as general news applicable to both clubs. We will still be offering the same delivery options as you have now: US mail, e-mail via PDF format, or download it from the club web site on your own schedule. Due to the schedule of both clubs' meeting times **the deadline for submitted material may be somewhat earlier than we had before.**

Vic Guess, WB9UZA, Editor

80th Anniversary T-shirts !

Celebrate 80 years of the Fort Wayne Radio Club! Order your T-shirt (\$15) or Sweatshirt (\$25) in sizes M-L-XL-XXL-XXXL. Your name and call sign are personalized on the front. The rear contains a graphic with the following characters shown.



To order yours, call Steve Nardin, WB9ZIY, at 219-483-4039.

Membership Data: (Give this form to the treasurer at any FWRC meeting or mail to the address below)

Name _____ Call _____ Class: ☐ N ☐ T ☐ G ☐ A ☐ AE

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK -- Provided at no cost to club members, this handbook provides a full set of information about present and past club activities, events, and functions. The handbook is available in a clear cover binder, and is upgradeable by easy insertion of new pages into the binder.

The FWRC offers electronic information distribution. Are you interested in receiving information from the club by E-Mail? ☐ Y ☐ N

Shall we list your address and phone number in the membership roster ☐ Y ☐ N?

Are you presently an ARRL member ☐ Y ☐ N?

Membership Term: ☐ (Jan - Dec) ☐ (Jul - Dec)

Family Membership: ☐ \$21.00/yr ☐ \$10.50/yr immediate family (list all callsigns)

Regular Membership: ☐ \$15.00/yr ☐ \$7.50/yr licensed member

Student Membership: ☐ \$6.00/yr ☐ \$3.00/yr full time student

Associate Membership: ☐ \$15.00/yr ☐ \$7.50/yr unlicensed member

Your Check Number _____ please pay by check. It's easier for both of us.

Mail to: The Fort Wayne Radio Club
PO Box 15127
Fort Wayne, IN 46885

Area Traffic Nets

(please submit any changes or corrections to the editor)

IMO: meets nightly at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM) on 146.88

Auburn: meets Mon, Wed., Thur., Fri., & Sat. at 2300 UTC (6 PM) on 147.015+

21 Repeater Group: meets each Wednesday at 0200 UTC (9 PM) on 147.150

Fort Wayne Radio Club Repeaters

Voice: 146.76/16

146.94/34

444.875/449.875

ATV: 439.25 In, 910.250 Out

Please send any articles, corrections, for sale notices, etc. to the editor, Victor Guess, WB9UZA, via e-mail WB9UZA at aol.com. Please put "for Hamsplatter" in the Subject line. Text should be plain ASCII, graphics should be JPEG or GIF. For those computer impaired: snail mail to 3311 Sanibel Drive, Fort Wayne, IN, 46815-4755.

Deadline for the February issue: 1/28/00.
Please do NOT send anything in all caps!!

Miscellaneous Nets

Huntington ARES: Sat/Tues at 0100 UTC (8 PM) on 146.685

Portside: 3rd Wednesday at 0030 UTC (7:30 PM) on 444.300

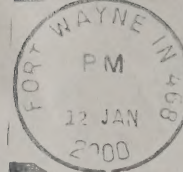
Whitley Co. / ARES: Wednesdays at 0015 UTC (7:15 PM) on 145.270 - (Note 131.8 PL disabled for all nets)

Whitley Co. Sunday: Sundays at 0045 UTC (7:45 PM) on 444.550+. (The 146.460 simplex crossbanding from both nets has been dropped.)

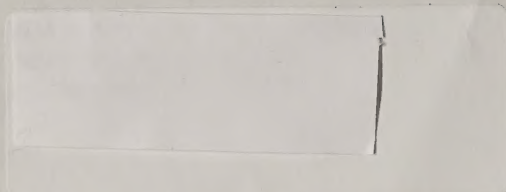
Sloppy Code Net: Sundays at 0200 UTC (9 PM) on 40M (7.1405 MHz). This CW net's purpose is to build confidence and help increase code speed. The speed is generally 1-10 WPM. If you want to copy only contact Henry, KA9ZNN at 749-8968 for details.

Be sure to visit the Fort Wayne Radio Club on the Internet: <http://home1.gte.net/n9jwy2/fwrc/>

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